

MEETING OF THE CITY OF CONNELL, WASHINGTON  
CONNELL, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

October 5, 2015

The regular semi-monthly meeting, of the City Council of the City of Connell was called to order by Mayor Blackwell at 6:00 pm in the City Hall and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

**PRESENT:** Mayor Bruce Blackwell, Mayor Pro Tem Monty Huber, and Councilmember's: Joe Escalera, Kathie Silva, Rhonda Quinton and Ray Minor.

**STAFF:** City Attorney Dan Hultgrenn , City Administrator Jed Crowther, Police Chief Chris Turner, Public Works Director Larry Turner, Fire Chief Chris Schulte, and Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña.

**VISITORS:** Kathy Bingham, Franklin County Graphic: Cathy Merrill Holle, Eileen Grigsby, Community Action Connections; Jaeniffer Kaiser, Columbia Basin Health Department; Citizens Wendy Minor and Manny Choi.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Blackwell received a Notice of a pending Short Plat for Lahn Clark, 9600 Eltopia West Road, Pasco, Washington.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**Motion:** Councilmember Quinton moved to approve the Consent Calendar with corrections.

- a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting September 21, 2015
- b) Check Register October 1 ,2015 for \$228.04
- c) Accounts Payable 10/5/2015 \$96,803.82
- d) Payroll Register 9/30/2015 to 10/5/2015 for \$81,578.44

Councilmember Escalera seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** Councilmember Silva moved to approve the Agenda as presented.

Councilmember Minor seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE PRESENTATION-CATHY MERRILL HOLLE  
Cathy Merrill Holle from Benton Franklin Community Action Committee (CAC) provided Councilmembers with a presentation on their services as "the community leader in providing pathways out of poverty in Benton and Franklin counties." CAC provided results from an assessment needs survey they conducted and an inventory of community assets. Resource Handbooks and cards were left at the city to handout out to the citizens. CAC would have an individual coming to the Connell area for citizens to talk with.

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CURRENT 2015 REVENUES AND 2016 PRELIMINARY BUDGET REVIEW

Clerk/Treasurer Maria Peña reviewed 2015 end of year predictions for each fund and review 2016 Preliminary Budget numbers.

- 001 General Fund – With the exception of the Homeland Security Grant, General Fund revenues and expenditures will be close to expected. Revenues were projected at \$2,065,600 and expenditures were projected at \$2,219,440, leaving a \$153,840 deficit.
- 002 Reserve Fund – Revenues are coming in as projected and expenditures slightly higher than projected.
- 101 Street Fund - Street Fund revenues for operations are as expected with the street operating expenditures coming in slightly less than projected, hopefully this will continue and the operating transfer from the General Fund will be less than projected. Revenues for the street reserve are slightly lower than projected for the Natural Gas tax and the Columbia Ave BST has been put on hold until next year. I also don't believe we will be receiving any more STP Allocations.
- 104 Fund – Revenues are coming in as projected. On the expenditure side the float project will not be completed in 2015. A request for the remaining amount will need to be submitted to the Hotel/Motel Committee in 2016, approximately \$9,840.
- 111 General Support Fund – Interest revenues are slightly higher than projected. Expenditures were as budgeted.
- 300 Fund – The REET revenues are lower than they were at this time last year. I expect that overall revenues will be lower than projected.
- 401 Water Fund – On the revenue side revenues are higher than projected and expenditures are currently lower than projected.
- 402 Sewer Fund – Revenues are coming in higher than projected and expenditures are coming a little under what was projected.
- 403 Solid Waste – It looks like revenues for this fund will be pretty close to what was projected and expenditures are coming in slightly lower than expected. I still expect that we may have a deficit for this fund. I had office staff work on payroll allocations and have made some changes for 2016. We will still need to maintain a close watch on this fund.
- 414 DWSRF – Is right on track. Transfers are made to this fund from the water fund for loan payment. It is a pass through fund.
- 415 Water/Sewer Bond Reserve – No activity as it is to be used for final bond payments.
- 416 Water/Sewer Bond Redemption –Transfers are made into this fund from the water fund for bond payments. It is a pass through fund. For this year we paid down additional principal for the USDA Bonds instead of the Farm Bonds.

For the 2016 Budget:

- There is a 2% COLA for all non-union employees and 3% for all union employees.
- 001 General Fund – Estimated revenues are at \$2,227,300.  
Expenditures are estimated at \$2,509,520 leaving a fund loss of \$282,220.
  - \$40k for a Police car
  - \$10K for Fire equipment
  - \$10K for Community Center improvements / reimbursed from 002 Fund
  - \$86,630 transfer to Street fund for operating cost
  - \$50,000 for Water Rights

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- 002 General Reserve Fund – looks good. Projected revenue increase of \$33,700
- 101 Street Fund – Revenues include a \$86,630 transfer from General Fund to offset operating cost.  
Expenditures for Capital include Columbia Ave BST, Columbia Ave Sidewalk, and Birch Street.
- 104 Hotel/Motel – Included expenditure allocation of \$9,840 for Machinery & Equipment that was not expended in 2015 for the float
- 111 General Support Fund – Continues to receive payments from loans to the Water Fund
- 300 Capital Fund – Included \$500,000 for the Railroad Interchange Project
- 401 Water Fund – Revenues continue to look good.  
Expenditures include
  - \$20,000 to complete the water plan
  - \$51,000 for well rehab
  - \$20,000 for machinery & equipment
  - do not include Well 6 repair
  - \$200,000 extra payment on USDA principal
- 402 Sewer Fund – Revenues continue to look good  
Expenditures include
  - \$50,000 for lift station repair
  - \$20,000 for machinery & equipment
  - \$30,000 for sewer plan
- 403 Solid Waste Fund – I have projected a deficit of \$23,500. There was a deficit of \$873 in 2014. I expect there will be a deficit of \$12,000 for 2015. This is a proprietary fund and we will have an audit finding if we continue to see a deficit in this fund.
- 414 DWSRF – Pass through account. Receives revenue through an interfund transfer from water department to make dept payment.
- 415 Water Bond Reserve – No activity as it is to be used for final bond payments.
- 416 Water Bond Redemption – Pass through account. Receives revenue through an interfund transfer from water department to make dept payments.
- 633 State Fund – Not city revenues.

The 2016 Budget would be discussed at the Town Hall Meeting October 12, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the Connell Community Center.

### WATER AND SEWER RATES 2016-FCS GROUP RECOMMENDATION DISCUSSION

The FCS Group Provided the City of Connell with 5-year projects on water and sewer rates. The incremental increases were to cover costs and help prevent higher spikes in water and sewer rates. The FCS Group recommended a 3% water increase and a 3% sewer increase for 2016. Staff was asking for Council's consensus to bring back a resolution for adoption to increase water rates 3% and increase sewer rates 3% for 2016. New rates would be on the January 1, 2016 utility bills.

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COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CITY ADMINISTRATOR-Jed Crowther

- 1) Advertising Park & Recreation Director
- 2) Working with WASDOT-Rail Division on interchange

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR-Larry Turner

- 1) Tested Well 6-Met with Anderson Perry on well 6 options

FIRE CHIEF-Chris Schulte

- 1) Community Center inspection
- 2) Emergency Response tied with County
- 3) After Action review with Lamb Weston.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business before the City Council of Connell, Mayor Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rose Courneya, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

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Bruce Blackwell, Mayor